8:Schaefer A-5 (1900-1901) 1904
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Upper Egypt

42.

The Inventor of the Shādûf.

539^
406
312
[174]

Shādûf is the modern name for a very ancient contrivance for raising water from the river to the higher level of the fields. There is evidence of its existence in Egypt as early as 1500 B. C. It resembles our well-sweep. Tied to the longer end of the lever by a rope, usually of plaited palm-fibre, is a leather pail, while the shorter end is weighted by a large stone or a lump of dry, Nile mud. The pail is filled in the river by the laborer and then emptied into a trench in the field above. (Compare the illustration.) If the banks are high, two or more shādûfs are employed, ranged in tiers, one above the other.

Of course the name of the inventor, Ṣâliḥ Zabâdi is mere invention; just as names are frequently inserted at pleasure, in such songs.

Śawādif
we-ḥbalha līf
wedlauha-glūd ma'zē gudadī.
We-aṣlo ma ṭalla' eś-śawādif
el-marḥūm Ṣālīḥ Zabādi.

Shādûfs,
Their ropes are of palm-fibre
And their pails of goat-skins.
And it was in ancient times, that shādûfs were invented
By the blessed Ṣâliḥ Zabâdi

[P. 42 is blank]

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●406
291

A Shādûf.

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97.

Good Friends.

539x
406 ●

Sāqye (sā'ye) is the name of the contrivance driven by oxen, for raising the water of the river or a well, to the fields. By means of a large, horizontal, wooden cog-wheel [231] and a smaller, perpendicular one, a large wheel is turned round, which revolves on the same axle with the smaller cog-wheel. On this second, large wheel, hangs a long, endless chain of jars, which raise the water from below and pour it into a trench above. (Compare the illustration.) The peculiar groan and creak of the sāqyes belong as much to the landscape of the Nile Valley, as do the melancholy songs of the shādûf-workers. [312]

A youth comes to the sāqye and questions it as to whether the girls of the village have already been there to get water, as they do every morning. The old sāqye understands him and replies: "A pretty girl has been here" and tells how even the ox, inspired, declared: "For such pretty girls as this, I will work forever; as for the old women, let me alone!" To this day I can hear the bantering tone of the, "Dog's son of a steer!" which escaped one boy as another repeated to me this favorite song.

883
539x
[312]
[462]

Ya sā'ye, yammû ṭāra,
waradet 'alēki-l-'adāra?
Waradet alēye ummû mandîl
wil-ka'b zēi el-ḥiyāre.

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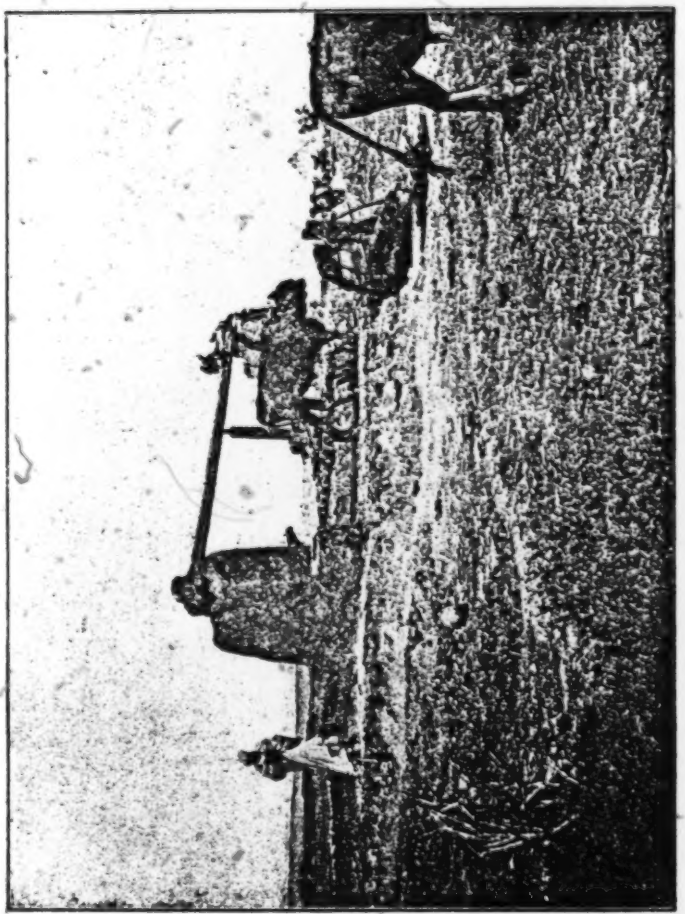
231
●40
291



Photograph by L. Borchardt.

A Sāqye Near the Great Pyramids.